

## Listing of Claims

1. (Presently amended) A process for fixed bed sweetening of petroleum distillates using a dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron ~~halogenated metal~~ phthalocyanine as a catalyst which comprises impregnating the catalyst on an activated charcoal bed by circulating an alcoholic alkaline solution of the catalyst through said activated charcoal bed until a colourless solution is obtained in the effluent, thereby obtaining a catalyst impregnated charcoal bed, passing the petroleum distillate through said catalyst impregnated charcoal bed along with air or oxygen at a temperature in the range 20°C to 100°C at a pressure in the range 1 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> to 15 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> with a liquid hourly space velocity in the range 1 hr<sup>-1</sup> to 15 hr<sup>-1</sup> with continuous or intermittent injection of alkali solution of concentration in the range 0.5 - 20%, to obtain the desired low mercaptan level petroleum distillates
2. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the alcoholic alkaline solution used is selected from methanolic and ethanolic solution of sodium hydroxide.
- 3 (Presently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ~~halogenated metal~~ ~~phthalocyanine~~ catalyst used is selected from dichloro cobalt phthalocyanine and dibromo cobalt phthalocyanine.
4. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claimed in claim1 wherein the concentration of catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.
- 5 (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the halogenated metal~~ said dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron ~~halogenated metal~~ phthalocyanine is prepared by treating ~~the~~ cobalt or iron phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the

group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.

- 6 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the petroleum distillate used is selected from diesel, kerosine and FCC gasoline.
- 7 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the temperature is about in the range 20°C to 50°C.
- 8 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the pressure is about in the range 5 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> - 8 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>.
- 9 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the liquid hourly space velocity (LHSV) is about in the range 1 hr<sup>-1</sup> to 6 hr<sup>-1</sup>.
- 10 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~said halogenated metal-phthalocyanine~~ catalyst used is selected from dichloro cobalt phthalocyanine and dibromo cobalt phthalocyanine.
- 11.(Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the concentration of catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.
- 12.(Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the concentration of catalyst used in the fixed bed is in the range 0.1 wt% to 1 wt% of activated charcoal.
13. (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein ~~the halogenated metal~~ said dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron ~~halogenated metal~~

phthalocyanine is prepared by treating the cobalt or iron phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.

- 14 (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein ~~the halogenated metal~~ said dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron ~~halogenated metal~~ phthalocyanine is prepared by treating the cobalt or iron phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.
- 15 (Currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein ~~the halogenated metal~~ said dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron ~~halogenated metal~~ phthalocyanine is prepared by treating the cobalt or iron phthalocyanine with a halogenating agent selected from the group comprising chlorine, bromine, iodine, thionyl chloride, sulphuryl chloride, phosphorus pentachloride, phosphorus oxychloride, phosphorus pentabromide and phosphorus trichloride.
16. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate used is selected from diesel, kerosine and FCC gasoline.
- 17 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate used is diesel.

- 18 (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the petroleum distillate used is FCC gasoline.
- 19 (Cancelled)
- 20 (Cancelled)
- 21 (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said injected alkali solution comprises sodium hydroxide.
- 22 (New) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron phthalocyanine is unsulfonated.
- 23 (New) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said dichloro- or dibromo- cobalt or iron phthalocyanine is insoluble in alkali or hydrocarbon during the sweetening process.